

Message Text

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SUBJ: KOREAN MEDIA ON US--RELATED TOPICS, MARCH 1-2, 1978

REF: SEOUL 1654 (DTG 280832Z FEB 78)

1. TOPICS RELATED TO ROK SECURITY PREDOMINATE, WITH TEAM SPIRIT DRAWING WIDEST COVERAGE. DOD STATEMENT THAT EXERCISE WILL CONCENTRATE ON DEFENSE OF SEOUL MERITS HEADLINES, FAVORABLE COMMENT IN ALL PRESS.

2. AMB. MANSFIELD'S STATEMENT THAT US GROUND FORCES WILL AUTOMATICALLY INTERVENE IN ANY FUTURE KOREAN WAR, IN CONTRAVENTION OF THE 1969 GUAM DOCTRINE, RECEIVES MUCH ATTENTION.

3. ALL PAPERS REPORT SEN. NUNN'S QUESTION REGARDING ROK'S REQUEST FOR A7E AND NON-NUCLEAR LANCE, ALONG WITH SECDEF BROWN'S REPLY THAT "THE KOREAN REQUESTS WILL BE REEXAMINED BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR".

4. TONG A ILBO'S D.C. CORRESPONDENT YI WOONG HUI, IN
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LENGTHY ANALYSIS OF CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON KOREAN AID PACKAGE, SAYS CONGRESSMEN COMPLAIN THAT THEY "HAVE NOT YET BEEN SHOWN ANY CONVINCING LOGIC OR THEORY TO EXPLAIN THE TROOP-WITHDRAWAL DECISION".

5. MOST PAPERS CARRY YOMIURI SHIMBUN'S COMMENT THAT THE CURRENT USE OF YOKOTA AFB AS "NUMBER ONE RELAY

POINT" FOR TEAM SPIRIT LEAVES NO DOUBT THAT THE US PLANS TO USE JAPAN BASES AS PRINCIPAL LOGISTICAL AND SUPPLY POINTS IN A KOREAN CONFLICT.

6. IN COVERAGE OF NATIONAL ASSY. INTERPELLATION, ALL PAPERS NOTE NDP CHMN. YI CHOL SEUNG CHALLENGING P.. TO DENY THAT PTS CASE, OTHER DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS HAVE DIRECT BEARING ON ROK'S FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRINCIPALLY WITH THE US. ANSWER: "ON THE QUESTION OF SEPARATING THE PTS CASE FROM THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ISSUE, THE KOREAN AND AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS ARE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT".

7. PTS CASE RETURNS TO THE FRONT PAGES AS PARK BEGINS HIS CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY. COVERAGE IS MOSTLY SPECULATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS, LITTLE SUBSTANCE. CONGRESSMAN CAPUTO'S STATEMENTS ARE WIDELY NOTED, AS ARE PARK'S COMPLAINTS THAT JAWORSKI CROSS-EXAMINED HIM MORE HARSHLY THAN DID THE INTERROGATORS IN SEOUL. ALL PAPERS NOTE NYTIMES STORY STATING THAT PARK IN SEOUL, DENIED ANY ASSOCIATION WITH KIM HYUNG WOOK OTHER THAN AS AN INDEPENDENT RICE DEALER SEEKING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE; SHIN A ILBO ADDS, "THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN DETERMINING WHETHER PTS WORKED AS AN INDEPENDENT OR AS A GOVERNMENT AGENT".

8. ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT SOURCES, LOCAL PRESS KILLED TWO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STORIES APPEARING ON WIRE SERVICE AND IN ENGLISH PRESS: THAT SCIENCE MINISTRY IS CONSIDERING CHANGING CONTRACTORS ON TROUBLE-PLAGUED KORI 5 AND 6 REACTORS, AND THAT ROKG, BOTHERED BY POLITICAL STRINGS TIED TO P.L. 480, FUNDS IS STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF BUYING US GRAINS OUTRIGHT RATHER THAN ACCEPTING FURTHER AID.
STERN

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